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REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed 3 November 2004 all pending claims 1, 25-27, 34, 50-53 and 55 were rejected. In this Reply, no claims are canceled, no claims are amended and no new claims are presented. Thus, all currently pending claims are pending examination on the merits. For the convenience of the Examiner the pending claims are set forth hereinabove.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by a published patent application by Natarajan et al.; namely, publication number US2003/0013974 A1 ("Natarajan").

Claim 50 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Natarajan in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,365,426 to Siegel et al. ("Siegel").

Claims 25-27 51-53 and 55 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Natarajan in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,803,084 to Olson ("Olson").

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

That is, on the basis of the declarations submitted herewith, the primary applied reference, Natarajan, has been antedated. Since Natarajan is not available as prior art against the presently pending claims, the grounds of rejection cannot stand and should be properly withdrawn.

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In support of the declaration (paper 10) filed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.131 on behalf of the Applicants to nullify the applied prior art vis-à-vis the pending claims. As noted by the Examiner, the declaration failed to form part of the declaration or their absence satisfactorily explained. Attached hereto for entry are photocopies of seven (7) pages of an Invention Disclosure Form for Attorney Docket No. P-8729.00 which was submitted and signed by the inventors of the subject matter claimed in the instant application prior to the filing date of the cited published application by Natarajan et al. Applicants suggest that the Examiner attach the photocopies of the original records to the declaration as Applicants intended to include them with the submission of the declaration but inadvertently failed to do so.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to submit additional exhibits and/or declarations supporting dates earlier than those support by the photocopied documents submitted herewith.

Applicants respectfully assert that upon entry of the photocopied records that the prior art applied herein stands traversed and the pending claims should proceed to timely issuance as U.S. Letters Patent.

CONCLUSION

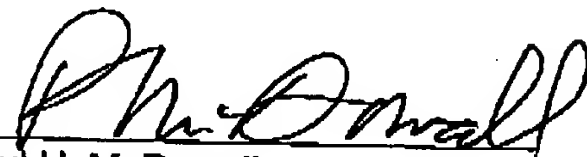
Applicants respectfully suggest that all presently pending claims of the instant application are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully

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request reconsideration and prompt allowance of said claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 13-2546. If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3 March '05


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